

Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

## The President's Radio Address *January 19, 2002*

Good morning. On Monday, communities across America will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Laura will visit Atlanta to commemorate the day in Dr. King's hometown. I will welcome Dr. King's family to the White House. This year's observance is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Dr. King and honor the principles for which he lived and died.

Americans can proudly say that we have overcome the institutionalized bigotry that Dr. King fought. Now our challenge is to make sure that every child has a fair chance to succeed in life. That is why education is the great civil rights issue of our time.

So my administration worked with Republicans and Democrats to enact into law the most far-reaching educational reform in a generation. We are insisting on high standards for all our children. We're putting a new emphasis on reading as the first step toward achievement. We're offering teachers new training, and States and localities new flexibility. And we're going to measure and test how everyone is doing in our new accountability system, so we can get help to children before it is too late.

We have a special obligation to disadvantaged children to close the achievement gap in our Nation. In my next budget, I will propose an increase of \$1 billion for the Federal program that aids disadvantaged schoolchildren. That's on top of the 18 percent increase in last year's budget. In fact,

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Federal spending on Title I will increase just about as much in the first 2 years of my administration as it did in all the previous 8 years combined. I hope Congress will approve this request.

At the same time as we fund Title I, we're giving extra help to children with special needs. The Federal program for special needs children was established by the law known as IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My 2003 budget requests an additional \$1 billion for IDEA, as well, an important increase. But we want these new dollars to carry to special education the same spirit of reform and accountability we have brought to other education programs.

This reform effort began Tuesday, when Education Secretary Rod Paige convened the first meeting of the new Presidential Commission on Excellence in Special Education. This distinguished and diverse group, chaired by former Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, has a clear mission, to propose reforms that will make special education an integral part of an education system that expects all children to reach their full potential.

We must have high expectations for children who are more difficult to teach or who have fallen behind. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would accept no less than an equal concern for every child in America, and neither will my administration.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:32 p.m. on January 18 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 19. In his remarks, the President referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10); and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 94-142).

The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday proclamation of January 17 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at a Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Celebration *January 21, 2002*

Well, thank you all very much for coming. Mrs. King, thanks for this beautiful portrait. I can't wait to hang it. [*Laughter*]

I want to welcome you all to the White House. We've gathered in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the ideals he held and the life he lived. We remember a man who brought much good into the world by the power of his voice and the truth of his words.

For some of you here this afternoon, Dr. King was and is a special part of your life as a colleague and a friend and a brother. Four call him "Dad," and we are pleased that two of his children are here with us today. We welcome Bernice and Martin Luther King III. I know your dad would be incredibly proud of you. I also welcome Christine King Farris, Dr. King's sister. Alveda King, Isaac Farris, Jr., Arthur Bagley, and Arturo Bagley, family members, are here as well. Thank you all for coming. And of course, we're honored to be in the presence of such a distinguished and delightful lady, Coretta Scott King.

I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige for being here. In honor of Dr. King, the Department of Education will soon announce the Martin Luther King, Jr., scholars program to promising students all across America.

I appreciate all the members of my team who are here, in particular, Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser. Thank you for coming, Condi. It's good to see the Mayor. Mr. Mayor and the first lady, Diane, are with us today. Thank you all for coming. The Mayor is a good man. I can assure you, Mr. Mayor, we paid our property taxes. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate so many members of the diplomatic corps for being here. Ambassadors from all across the world are here to say hello to Mrs. King and her family. And thank you all for coming to pay honor to such a great American. Thank you very much.

On a summer night in 1964, right here in the East Room, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and handed a pen to Martin Luther King, Jr. The law marked a true turning point in the life of our country. As Dr. King put it, "The Civil Rights Act was the end of a century of slumber." More laws would be needed, and more would follow. But on that day, our Federal Government accepted the duty of securing freedom and justice for every American.

Standing in the White House, marking a national holiday in Dr. King's memory, we are now two generations and a world